

The Beverly Lafayette Holcombe Residence  
Marshall, Texas.

Harrison Co

HABS No. 33-D-4

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 33

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Marvin Eickenroht, District Officer  
San Antonio, Texas.

THE BEVERLY LAFAYETTE HOLCOMBE RESIDENCE  
MARSHALL, HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS

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The building is now owned by the Bishop College for negroes, established by a Mr. Bishop, who was a Northerner, in 1880. It is being used as a music hall and is known as the C. H. Maxson Music Hall, having been named after a white president by that name, recently retired.

Prior to 1880, the building belonged to, and was occupied by, the Holcombe family. No alterations have been made except dividing the second story rooms for piano practice, building the inside stairway, and wrecking one of the outside stairs. These alterations were made after 1880.

The house was built in 1850 by B. L. Holcombe, a wealthy slave owner. Slave labor was used in the construction, but no record of Architect or Builder exists.

The B. L. Holcombe estate of about one hundred acres was devoted exclusively to household uses, as the plantation was in the low lands on the other side of town. It was the town's center of hospitality, where strangers found welcome as well as friends. It was known by the Indian name "Wyalucing", meaning "Home of the Friendless".

A daughter of the family, Lucy Holcombe, was noted for her beauty, and her picture was chosen to adorn the one hundred dollar Confederate bill. She married the governor of South Carolina, F. W. Pickens, who later was named Ambassador to Russia. They took two favorite personal slaves, Tom and Lucinda, with them to Russia, where the family enjoyed the special favor of the Empress Maria and of Alexander II. Her child was born in the Imperial Palace, and the event was heralded with the National Salute. This baby girl was given a Russian name "Douschka" meaning "little darling".

The Bishop College as an institution is now controlled by negro officers and Jos. J. Rhoads, A.B. is President.

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The building is highly prized by its negro owners. It is located on the crest of a gentle slope in a grove of magnolias, overlooking the valley and the town of Marshall.

Historic data was furnished by Mrs. Dewitt Smith, Aunt of Lucy Holcombe, 201 Rusk Street, Marshall, Texas, and Miss Anna Holcombe Smith, her daughter.

Author C.C. Bulger

Approved Marvin Eickensicht

*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*